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# EMERGENCY LEGISLATION AIDS POST 9/11 GI BILL STUDENTS

Congress has passed emergency legislation to prevent thousands of Post-9/11 GI Bill students from a drop in tuition payments next week when new policies will simplify the popular education program.

President Obama is expected to sign the bill, and Veterans Affairs Department officials are trying to work out a way to apply the change to the GI Bill without delaying processing of claims for the fall term. Most Post-9/11 GI Bill claims are supposed to be calculated and paid using a new, fully automated system, but passage of the new tuition rate protection will require some claims to be processed by hand.

The House passed the bill on Tuesday by a 422-0 vote. The Senate had approved the measure by voice vote on July 21, so it now heads to the White House. It is not clear whether Obama will receive the bill in time for it to be signed by Aug. 1, when the GI Bill changes are to take effect, but the tuition fix will be effective Aug. 1 even if it is signed into law after that date.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., the House Veterans' Affairs Committee chairman who made the tuition protection bill a top priority, said the measure would "temporarily preserve higher rates for tuition and fees" for students who were either enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a private college or university on Jan. 4, the date the new tuition cap was signed into law.

Anyone who applied to a private college after Jan. 4, or who had not been accepted for enrollment by that date, will not be helped by the bill.

The idea is to protect people already enrolled in schools from dramatic changes in payments that could leave them facing thousands of dollars in expenses.

As always, if you have any questions regarding education benefits, please call Shane Olivier, 605.773.3648.

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# P2V—BRINGING TOGETHER VETERANS AND PETS

P2V seeks healing and support for the 10-12 million men and women who suffer with some form of psychological condition and homes for the four-five million shelter animals who are euthanized every year so that both may live in dignity as they embark on their journey together. P2V will provide our nation's heroes *a choice*, while providing cost-effective animal assisted activities (animal companionship) as they pursue rehabilitative and therapeutic care from their healthcare providers across the nation.

P2V's Mission is to alleviate the psychological suffering of our nation's heroes and to reduce the number of sheltered animals in the United States by:

- Aiding active duty military and military veterans, law enforcement officers, emergency first responders, and their families with rehabilitation through animal companionship;
- Saving shelter animals from euthanasia by providing them with a loving home;
- Increasing public awareness of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) and other challenges facing today's heroes;
- Rallying support for animal welfare and the adoption of sheltered animals.

P2V is a non-clinical and non-facility based organization that places special emphasis on creating mutually beneficial opportunities for sheltered animals, some who might otherwise be euthanized, and our nation's service men and women by accessing the expertise of medical care professionals and animal welfare organizations. P2V is an Animal Assisted Activity (AAA) program that recognizes the incredible power of the human-animal relationship and seeks to support those suffering from psychological stress as they pursue recovery with the unconditional love of a pet.

P2V is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization with headquarters in Arlington, VA. P2V helps to partner sheltered animals with military veterans and emergency first responders recovering from the stress and trauma of service. To help our nation's heroes who are suffering the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) and other psychological stresses, P2V proudly provides two primary programs: *P2V Connections*, a visitation program and *P2V Matches*, an adoption facilitation program. Read more about P2V at <http://p2v.org/our-work/>. Visit their facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/P2V/125894407465018>



## WAR ZONE GUIDES

Over two-million U.S. troops have deployed to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan in the past decade. The experiences they have while in the military and during deployment stay with them for the remainder of their lives. They also face many challenges, witnessing the death or injury of friends or other military personnel, civilians, or enemy combatants.

Reunion can be a time of considerable stress for both troops and family too. Some service members say that coming home may actually be harder than going to war.

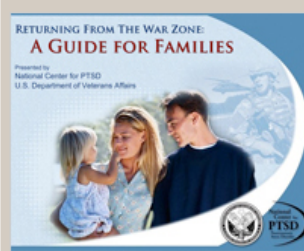
In order to get through homecoming as smoothly as possible, it is helpful for everyone to know what to expect during reintegration and the kinds of issues you, or someone you know, might face. Learn more from the *Returning from the War Zone Guides*. These two guides, one for troops and one for families, provide information to help smooth the reintegration process and can be found at the following link:

[http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/reintegration/returning\\_from\\_the\\_war\\_zone\\_guides.asp](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/reintegration/returning_from_the_war_zone_guides.asp)

Learn what to expect as part of normal reintegration, as well as how to tell if problems are in need of professional attention.

### Returning from the War Zone Guides


#### A Guide for Families of Military Personnel



 [Watch: A Guide for Families](#) (Flash)

This interactive module includes video clips of families dealing with the challenges of reintegration following deployment to war.

[Help with Flash](#)

 [Play Audio Version of: A Guide for Families](#)


▶ [Download MP3 audio podcast](#)

▶ [Download Transcript \(PDF\)](#)



 [View: A Guide for Families](#) (PDF)

Includes full color photos, stories, and live links! View online or print for handouts.

 [Chamorro Translation \(PDF\)](#)

 [Samoan Translation \(PDF\)](#)

#### A Guide for Military Personnel



 [View: A Guide for Service Members](#) (PDF)

This guide is to help military personnel understand what to expect when returning from a war zone, and to help them to better adapt back to home life. Includes full color photos, stories, and live links! View online or print for handouts.

## GENEROSITY EXTENDED TO SOUTH DAKOTA'S VETERANS

One of the numerous missions of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is to provide our veterans with a homelike environment at the Michael J Fitzmaurice Veterans Home (Veterans Home). The Veterans Home, located in one of the most picturesque spots in South Dakota, is first and foremost a place where our South Dakota veterans go to live. It offers complete medical care amidst the amenities of a small town atmosphere.

In the quite confines of the Veterans Home you will find the veterans participating in ice cream socials, birthday parties, dances, holiday parties, slide shows, a game of cards, a game of billiards, bingo, watching movies, partaking in a sing-a-long, reading a novel on the deck or partaking in a fish feed or steak fry.

With the companionship of their fellow veterans, residents may participate in off campus activities. Residents are afforded the opportunity to participate in outings such as picnics, touring the Black Hills, touring Ellsworth Air Force Base, fishing, shopping trips, parades, horse shows, horse races, rodeos, nature walks, campouts at Custer State Park, hayrides, pontoon rides, performances at the Black Hills Playhouse, hunting, trap shooting, golfing,

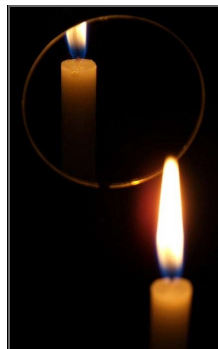
trail rides, bowling, trips to Deadwood and Prairie Winds Casino, Powwows, the Sturgis Motor Cycle Rally or races at the Black Hills Speedway.

Many of these events would not take place if it wasn't for the generous donations that are received throughout the year.

South Dakotans are notorious for taking care of our own. The assistance and contributions that are received at the Veterans Home are phenomenal and we thank you for all that you do to ensure our veterans are afforded an outstanding quality of life.



There are two ways of spreading light - to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.  
~Edith Wharton



For a complete list of needs for the residents and/or the Home, please give Larry a call at 605.745.5127

## UPCOMING EVENTS

August 17—Veterans Job Fair—Sioux Falls VFW—10:00 am.

August 19—Stand Down at Ft Thompson Community Center—10:00 am.

August 29-31— VSO Annual Benefits School—Pierre Ramkota Hotel.

September 11—Patriot Day.

September 15—Stand Down - Watertown

September 20—Stand Down—Aberdeen

September 23—Stand Down—Sioux Falls



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